

ONE OF A KIND



Alamo home dramatically interprets European tradition and architecture

BY LINNEA SMITH JESSUP
SECTION EDITOR

The words "Old World" tend to set our minds to wandering, visiting ancient European castles, ducking down alleyways of cobblestone, taking in a magnificent view from a grand balcony. We think of "moments" in our lives, our travels, of places where we felt happy, safe, surrounded by things good and glorious.

Translating moments or "memory chimes" into specific features of the exquisite home at 337 Corrie Place in Alamo Springs (above) was a collaboration between Architect Francis Garcia and the couple who envisioned a home based on Old World features.

"We love the old walled cities of Europe, the mystery of wondering 'What's inside?' and discovering a whole other world, a protected environment" that transforms a home into a sanctuary, a safe and comfortable place to gather with friends and family, explain the home owners. Their partnership with Garcia resulted in a home that is both welcoming and private, high-tech and tactile, a complex blend of Old World touches and features that are must-haves in the 21st century.

The owners and architect adopted many European influences and the extensive use of natural materials including limestone, plaster, brushed cedar beams and tile. The result is a home large in volume, cozy in ambience, with a timeless appeal. Old items such as the courtyard fountain and the use of beams and brick help create a home that looks as though it was built around much older structures; it's a delight to really take in the details and appreciate the creative effort that produced this unique home.

From the .5-acre hilltop site in Alamo Springs, this single-story home has great views, particularly from the living room, master bedroom and outdoor terraces overlooking oak trees below and Mt. Diablo in the distance.

Upon entering the home through the large wooden door one immediately sees the beck-

oning courtyard (lower right) in the center of the home, open to the sky and with several areas including a trellis shaded area with an outdoor fireplace and the roof-shaded loggia at one end that adjoins the great room. This lovely space is perfect for quiet reflection, reading or gathering with friends at almost any time of day or evening.

With high ceilings and large windows framing views out the back of the home, the great room/kitchen (upper right) is another popular social spot. The large fireplace dominates one end of the room, while the kitchen's huge stove and hood anchor the other end, with wood cabinetry and a marble-topped island adding to the appeal. One hardly notices the large refrigerator which is enveloped in wood, adding to the illusion that this is an old European masterpiece of a home. Cabinets stretch along the windows and lead to a hidden pantry where wide open shelves make it easy to find a favorite serving dish or food staple. Clerestory windows above the arched windows add even more natural light.

Nearby is the dining room with a raised fireplace sheathed in rock, large beams above and tile floors below. A space in one corner could become wine storage and the large arched entry makes this room separate yet close to the kitchen.

A C-shaped hallway runs from the great room back to the front entry. Off it are the library, master suite and two additional bedrooms. The library has a fireplace, many built-in shelves and windows overlooking the oak trees at the back of the property. Next along the hallway is the master suite with a double window trimmed in wrought iron, bathroom with double sinks, steam shower and a soaking tub plus walk-in closet with an island of storage drawers. There are also a laundry room and powder room along the hallway, plus two bedrooms which share a bathroom.

Two additional bedrooms at the front of the house just off the entry way share a full bath; one room has a fireplace and is currently used as an office. Both bed-



rooms have double doors that open to the side yard. The front yard is landscaped and steps up to the front door; three garage doors face the street.

This distinctive home, whether filled with

guests or providing a quiet sanctuary for a family, provides light, space and beauty that evokes appreciation for the past and elegant accommodation for the present.

— HOUSE FRONT PHOTO BY RIEN VAN RIJTHWEN; OTHERS BY TODD SAUNDERS

VITAL STATISTICS

What: A single story home with Old World European influences at 337 Corrie Place in Alamo.

Size: Approximately 5,000 square feet, built on approximately 5 acres.

Bedrooms: Five.

Bathrooms: Three full, one half-bath.

Features: A 1,800-square-foot interior courtyard with fireplace and antique water fountain, arched doors and windows with

wood trim, wooden beams in the ceiling, outdoor firepit and terrace, library, custom cabinets throughout the home, tile floors, wrought iron railings, five fireplaces and full landscaping.

Price: \$3,375,000.

Listing agent: Raelene Sprague, Empire Realty, 925-217-5020.

OPEN HOME TODAY NOON - 5 p.m.
Information believed correct but not verified.